

Ohio's Early Childhood Initiatives Report 2020



December 2020

PURPOSE

The Ohio Department of Education, in consultation with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and select stakeholder groups, prepared this report on Ohio's Early Childhood Initiatives for 2020. The report fulfills the requirements set forth in Section 3317.60 of House Bill 166 and includes: (1) a review of early child initiatives in Ohio, including preschool, head start and other early learning opportunities for young children; and (2) information regarding how other states support early learning opportunities for young children.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Governor DeWine's Office of Children's Initiatives helps to advance policies that improve the lives of Ohio's children and families so that every child, regardless of where they live, has the chance at a bright future. Ohio's Early Childhood Initiatives Report for 2020 highlights this commitment to serving children in their formative years through programs spanning health, mental health, nutrition, development and education. Even amid a global pandemic, the state of Ohio has continued to provide critical supports to families with young children. Consider the following:

- The Ohio Department of Health's Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program served an average of 62,508 infants and 79,521 children each month, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) served 1,517,574 individuals each month.
- Early Intervention received 29,699 referrals and served 23,349 children birth to age 3; the Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps provided much-needed services and support to more than 8,000 infants and toddlers with medical conditions.
- The Medicaid Healthchek program served 472,820 children between birth and age 5.
- The state increased the percent of licensed child care programs being rated in Step Up To Quality from 38% at the start of 2019 to 100% by September 1, 2020.
- The Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and the statewide implementation of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports in school helped to keep children in their preschool classrooms, showing a 2% expulsion rate after engagement with the professionals—a rate that is significantly better than the national average of 6.7% for preschool expulsion.
- The number of children birth to age three served in evidence-based early childhood home visiting programs grew by over 10% between 2019 and 2020.

LANDSCAPE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD IN OHIO

Ohio is comprised of more than 11,000,000 residents, of which an estimated 807,175 are children birth to age five. During the first five years of life, 23.2% of Ohio's children live at or below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL), a rate of poverty that is higher than that of all persons living in Ohio (14%) or the nation (13.4%). Half of all children in Ohio live at or below 200% Federal Poverty Level (2019 Ohio Poverty Report).

Many children in Ohio are faced with adversity beginning at or before birth. With one of the highest infant mortality rates in the nation (6.9 per 1,000 live births), Ohio's Black infants are at double the risk (13.9) of their white counterparts (5.4) for dying before their first birthdays (2018 Ohio Infant Mortality Report).

The social, economic and health impacts of poverty and inequalities result in more than 403,587 children not yet in school who experience food insecurity, living in unsafe or inadequate housing and/or living with unaddressed health, mental health, or dental needs. The Ohio departments of Education, Job and Family Services, Health, Developmental Disabilities, Medicaid, and Mental Health and Addiction Services administer programs to combat adverse early childhood circumstances.

This report provides a brief description of each publicly funded initiative and who it serves, beginning with maternal/prenatal programs and ending with programs that serve children who are birth to age five. The most recent data and website links are provided for each initiative. The initiatives included in the report are also listed, by administering state agency, in Appendix A.

REVIEW OF EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES IN OHIO

The Ohio Department of Health invests in [several key strategies](#) aimed at reducing infant deaths, including safe sleep education and access to cribs, perinatal smoking cessation services, *Ohio Equity Institute: Working to Achieve Equity In Birth Outcomes Neighborhood Navigation* for pregnant women, and pre- and interception health efforts. *Cribs for Kids® Programs* provided safety-approved cribs and infant [safe sleep education](#) based on the recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics to 5,961 families (Federal Fiscal Year 2019). The *Mom's Quit for Two* program funded 19 projects that follow the Baby Me Tobacco Free modality as well as the 5 A's of [Smoking Cessation](#) (Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist and Arrange) to serve 576 clients in State Fiscal Year 2020. *The Ohio Equity Institute* connected 1,522 pregnant women to clinical and social services through Neighborhood Navigation (FFY 2019). Work place programs and policies regarding women's preconception health funded 20 subgrantees to support access to health and wellness, prenatal care, preventative medical visits, information and referrals, and workplace policy development and implementation that support women's health initiatives in the workplace (FFY 2019).

The Ohio Department of Health's [Infant Hearing Program](#) (IHP) is the state of Ohio's Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Program. The IHP ensures babies born in Ohio's hospitals receive hearing screenings prior to discharge. IHP also provides follow-up coordination for tracking and monitoring of infants who need diagnostic hearing evaluations after non-pass hospital hearing screening results. In addition, the IHP refers families for home-based, early intervention services to help with the development of communication and language in infants and toddlers with hearing loss to help them build the best possible skills during the developmental stages for communication skills.

In 2018, 97.3% of babies born in Ohio received a hearing screening prior to hospital discharge. A total of 4,380 babies were referred for additional diagnostic testing following non-pass hearing screening results. Of these referrals, 71.9% of babies had a documented diagnosis. A record number of 278 babies were diagnosed with permanent hearing loss in Ohio. Of these babies who were referred for Part C Early Intervention services, 53.2% families enrolled in services to provide family support and encourage development of communication and language skills.

Ohio Connections for Children with Special Needs is Ohio's statewide population-based birth defects surveillance program. Ohio Revised Code 3705.30 authorizes the state director of health to require hospitals, physicians and freestanding birthing centers to report children from birth to 5 years of age with certain reportable birth defects to the Ohio Department of Health. Collection of birth defect data is important for public health action, including facilitating referrals to services such as early intervention and targeting prevention strategies. The program includes activities in four major areas: surveillance of birth defects, analysis of surveillance data, referrals to early intervention services, and awareness and prevention activities. In 2019, an average of 3,800 encounters of children with birth defects were reported each month.

The [Comprehensive Genetic Centers](#), overseen by the Ohio Department of Health, provide newborn screening follow-up services to infants, children and adults identified through newborn screening. Identifying these conditions early and providing appropriate treatment may prevent serious complications and impact infant mortality in Ohio. The centers ensure availability of quality, comprehensive genetic services in Ohio. Genetic services include, but are not limited to, genetic counseling, education, diagnosis and treatment for genetic conditions and congenital abnormalities. A total of 134,402 newborns received required genetic disorder screenings in 2019.

The [Newborn Critical Congenital Heart Disease](#) program, also administered by the Ohio Department of Health and in partnership with hospitals and birthing centers, provides screening for babies born in Ohio hospitals, along with systematic collection and reporting of Critical Congenital Heart Disease screening results. Seven specific Critical Congenital Heart Diseases are targeted for identification in Ohio. These include hypoplastic left heart syndrome, pulmonary atresia, Tetralogy of Fallot, total anomalous pulmonary venous return,

transposition of the great arteries, tricuspid atresia and truncus arteriosus. A total of 122,644 newborns were screened for Critical Congenital Heart Disease in 2019.

The [Sickle Cell Services Program](#) provides newborn screening follow-up services to infants, children and adults identified through newborn screening. The Sickle Cell program, administered by the Ohio Department of Health, ensures and enhances the availability and accessibility of quality, comprehensive sickle cell services and care for newborns, children and adults; education to increase awareness and knowledge about sickle cell disease, sickle cell trait and other hemoglobinopathies; and strategies to maximize collaboration, coordination and utilization of all sickle cell-related services and resources in Ohio. A total of 134,402 newborns were screened for sickle cell disease in 2019.

[Women, Infants, and Children](#) (WIC) is the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children administered by the Ohio Department of Health. WIC serves pregnant and breastfeeding women; women who recently had babies; and infants and children up to 5 years of age. The program improves pregnancy outcomes and provides infants and children with a healthy start in life by improving poor or inadequate diets. During SFY 2020, WIC served an average of 62,508 infants and 79,521 children each month. Over the course of the SFY 2020, an unduplicated total of 116,970 infants and 131,888 children received WIC benefits.

WIC provides nutrition education; breastfeeding education and support (including breast pumps); supplemental, highly nutritious foods such as cereal, eggs, milk, whole grain foods, fruits and vegetables and iron-fortified infant formula; and referral to prenatal and pediatric health care and other maternal and child health and human service programs.

Breastmilk is the optimal source of nutrition for infants. The [Title V Maternal and Child Health Block Grant-funded breastfeeding work](#) aims to improve breastfeeding initiation and duration rates by promoting and supporting breastfeeding while addressing inequities. Women, families and health care professionals across Ohio have access to 24/7 breastfeeding support available at no cost. Additional initiatives administered by the Ohio Department of Health engage hospitals, child care facilities and work sites with an overarching goal of improving breastfeeding continuity of care.

According to vital statistics data for births in 2018 in Ohio, 74.6% of infants breastfed at hospital discharge, while 51.6% of infants were exclusively breastfed at hospital discharge. In 2018, 76% of non-Hispanic white Ohioans were breastfeeding at hospital discharge, while only 66.7% of non-Hispanic Black Ohioans were breastfeeding at hospital discharge. The disparity increased for exclusive breastfeeding at hospital discharge, with 56.5% of non-Hispanic white Ohioans compared to 35.1% non-Hispanic Black Ohioans.

The Ohio Department of Health oversees the [Children with Medical Handicaps Program](#) (CMH), linking families of children with special health care needs to a network of quality providers and helping families obtain payment for the services their children need. CMH's mission is to assure, through the development and support of high-quality, coordinated systems, that children with special health care needs and their families obtain comprehensive care and services that are family centered, community based and culturally sensitive.

Major components of the program include: conducting quality assurance activities to establish standards of care and determine unmet needs of children with handicaps and their families; funding services for the diagnosis and treatment of medically eligible conditions; collaborating with public health nurses and local health departments to assist in increasing access to care; supporting service coordination for children with selected diagnoses; and assisting families to access and use appropriate sources of payment for services for their children. In SFY 2019, CMH served 8,005 children ages 0-3.

[Step Up To Quality](#) (SUTQ) is a five-star quality rating and improvement system administered by the Ohio departments of Education and Job and Family Services. Step Up To Quality recognizes and promotes learning and development programs that meet quality program standards and exceed licensing health and safety regulations. The program standards are based on national research identifying standards that lead to improved outcomes for children. This initiative assesses early care and education programs on a set of high-quality indicators. Programs can earn 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5-star ratings, and when serving children in publicly funded child care, that star rating qualifies the program for higher rates of reimbursement for providing care.

[Early Intervention](#) (EI) is a statewide system that provides coordinated services to parents of eligible children under the age of 3 with developmental delays or disabilities. The federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) establishes EI programs in all 50 states. In Ohio, the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities serves as the lead agency for the EI program. During State Fiscal Year 2020, Ohio's EI program received 29,699 referrals and served 23,349 children.

Evidence-based Early Childhood Home Visiting programs have proven effective for improving maternal and infant health outcomes, child development and family well-being. These programs are a priority of Governor Mike DeWine. The Ohio Department of Health administers the implementation of three evidence-based and one evidence-informed home visiting models across the state — Nurse Family Partnership, Healthy Families America, Parents as Teachers and Moms & Babies First. The Ohio Department of Health's [Early Childhood Home Visiting System](#) is funded through Ohio's General Revenue Fund, the Federal Health Resources & Services Administration's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program and the Maternal Child Health Block Grant. Enrollment in Home Visiting across Ohio increased in SFY 2020 as shown in the table below.

Table 1: Enrollment in Evidence-based Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs

Early Childhood Home Visiting Program	SFY 2019	SFY 2020
Nurse Family Partnership	719	1,254
Healthy Families America	7,263	7,556
Parents as Teachers	618	606
Moms & Babies First	1,050	1,349
Totals	9,620	10,712

In addition to the funding provided through the Ohio Department of Health, other state agencies also contribute funding that supports home visiting in Ohio. In the case of the Ohio Department of Medicaid, providers are using the Ohio Comprehensive Home Visiting Integrated System (OCHIDS), to document information about eligibility, screenings and assessments and details on home visits. Enrollment is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Enrollment in Programs Included in the Comprehensive Home Visiting Integrated System

Early Childhood Home Visiting Included in OCHIDS	SFY 2019	SFY 2020
Nurse Family Partnership	608	700
Healthy Families America	123	74
Moms & Babies First	338	615
Totals	1,069	1,389

Head Start programs promote school readiness among children from birth to age 3 in [Early Head Start](#), a federal-to-local grant program administered through the United States Department of Health and Human Services. Ohio served 9,350 infants and toddlers in low-income families or who are living with disabilities (FFY 2019).

Administered by the Ohio Department of Health, the [Save Our Sight](#) Fund provides early detection of vision problems and the promotion of good eye health and safety. Save Our Sight provides training, certification and equipment for early childhood vision screeners; protective eyewear for youth sports activities and vocational education; eye health and safety education programs for Ohio schools; emergency eye kits for schools; and eye patches and case management services to children diagnosed with amblyopia (lazy eye) and their families through the Ohio Amblyope Registry. In 2019, Save Our Sight served a total of 16,352 children in early childhood programs.

The Ohio Department of Health offers [Ohio Healthy Programs](#) (OHP), which is a healthy eating, physical activity and development designation that early childhood programs may earn after completing educational sessions; updating menus, policies and family engagement activities; and submitting an application. During FFY 2019, there were 214 in-person OHP trainings and 43 online trainings offered, with a total of 3,651 participants. At the end of FFY 2020, 14,941 children attended one of 338 OHP-designated licensed child care programs in the state.

Similarly, the Ohio Department of Health offers the [Parenting at Mealtime and Playtime](#) (PMP) program in collaboration with the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. This program provides similar information about healthy eating and active living to health care professionals, including home visitors and community health workers, so families receive the same obesity prevention messages from early childhood education professionals and health professionals. Since the start of the program in 2014, 201 primary care providers in 90 practices across the state have participated in a quality improvement initiative to incorporate PMP into their practices.

The Ohio Department of Health provides resources and professional development to early childhood education professionals to increase their knowledge and skills regarding [health and safety](#) concerns for young children and their families. More than 12,000 professionals completed one of 10 available courses between January and October 2020.

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services oversees mental health professionals who provide [Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation](#) to early care and education programs where young children are experiencing challenging behaviors. With a single phone call, an early care and education provider can receive help and consultation from a licensed mental health professional who is trained in early childhood. This program has reduced suspensions and expulsions and increased provider confidence in handling the continuum of behaviors they encounter with children in preschool.

In SFY 2020, early childhood mental health consultants served 18,436 children in 1,475 classrooms with 2,783 teachers. More than 11,401 evaluations were conducted in 27 counties during the same time, with more than 82% of children staying in their classrooms. At the end of the consultation, only 2% of children were expelled and 1% moved to another center; impressive results when the national preschool expulsion rate is 6.7%.

Administered through the Ohio Department of Education, the [Early Childhood Education Grant](#) provides no or low-cost, high-quality preschool to eligible four year old children to support readiness for kindergarten. Children are eligible when they are 4 years old and living in families with incomes at or below the 200% Federal Poverty Level. If grantees have openings after Oct. 1, they can request to serve 3-year-old children. The state-funded grant is awarded to preschool programs that are required to provide comprehensive services that support a

child's growth and learning, using developmentally appropriate practices. In SFY20, this initiative provided grants to 369 programs that served 18,164 preschool-age children in high-quality settings.

Ohio's public schools provide [special education services](#) to children with disabilities as early as preschool, under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B, Section 619. Administered by the Ohio Department of Education and working together with families, preschool staff meet the needs of young children with disabilities in a variety of settings that include public schools, private preschools, Head Start programs and child care centers. Each child with a disability has an Individualized Education Program, or IEP, which is created collaboratively by parents, teachers, therapists, and school administrators. Services are provided without cost to families, with the purpose of supporting young children with disabilities in accessing educational instruction. In SFY 2020, Ohio served 28,386 children eligible for special education between age 3 and 5.

[Head Start](#) programs promote school readiness for children up to age 5 from low-income families by supporting children's growth and development through early learning, health services and family engagement. Head Start programs offer a variety of service models, depending on the needs of the local community. Services may be delivered in child care centers, schools, family child care settings or a family's own home. In this federal-to-local grant program, administered through the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Ohio served 33,681 preschool-age children in low-income families or who are living with a disabilities (FFY 2019).

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Employment and Training (E&T) Program is coordinated with Ohio's more comprehensive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work and training program called Ohio Works First (OWF). Administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, the purpose of SNAP E&T is to assist individuals participating in the SNAP program to gain skills, training, or work experience that will increase their ability to obtain employment and ultimately become self-sufficient. Ohio Works First serves 103,967 individuals monthly ([Report, July 2020](#)).

The [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program](#) (SNAP) — formerly called food stamps and the food assistance program - helps eligible low-income Ohioans stretch their food budgets and buy healthy food. Food assistance benefits are distributed electronically through the Ohio Direction Card, which is similar to a debit card. This program, administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, serves 1,517,574 individuals monthly ([Report, July 2020](#)).

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services oversees more than 5,400 licensed, certified and approved child care programs, which include child care centers, family child care providers, approved day camps and in-home aides. [Publicly Funded Child Care](#) provides low-income families and their children under age 13 (or under 18 for children with special needs) with child care services using state and federal funding. This program provides subsidized child care payments for an average monthly enrollment of more than 95,000 children ([Report, July 2020](#)).

The Ohio Department of Education also licenses preschool and school age child care programs in education settings. Licensing specialists made annual on-site visits to all 1,896 licensed programs serving 97,358 children (SFY19).

The ODH's [Children's Hearing and Vision Programs](#) sets screening requirements and guidelines for school-based preschool and K-12 schools and tracks screening rates annually from school-based preschool and K-12 schools. Early detection and treatment of vision and/or hearing disorders provides children with the best opportunity to develop academically, emotionally and socially. During the 2018-2019 school year, a total of 19,825 school-based preschool-age children received hearing and/or vision screenings.

Medicaid covers nearly 3 million people in Ohio and more than 1.2 million children ages birth to 21. These essential health services are administered by the Ohio Department of Medicaid and provide comprehensive care, including routine well checks, screenings, immunizations, behavioral health services and chronic care for conditions such as childhood obesity, diabetes, and asthma. More than 90% of these children are enrolled in managed care plans. The goal is to provide coordinated care and preventive services required for healthy growth and development of children and youth.

[Healthchek](#) is Ohio's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program, administered by the Ohio Department of Medicaid. It is a service package for babies, children and young adults under age 21 who are enrolled in Ohio Medicaid. The purpose of Healthchek is to discover and treat health problems early. If a potential health problem is found, further diagnosis and treatment are covered by Medicaid.

Healthchek covers 10 check-ups in the first two years of life and annual check-ups thereafter. In SFY 2019, Healthchek served 472,820 children between birth and age five, including 76,030 infants under age 1; 164,829 toddlers between 1 and 2 years old; and 231,961 preschool-age children between 3 and 5 years old.

[Comprehensive Primary Care \(CPC\) for Kids](#) supports pediatric-focused primary health care practices to holistically manage a child's health care needs. Preventive services such as lead screening and immunizations, team-based care continuity and follow up for appropriate referrals, including for behavioral health and social service needs, are all activities supported by per-member, per-month payments made directly to practices. In 2020, the first year of CPC for Kids, 232 primary care practices participated, caring for 708,339 Medicaid-enrolled children.

[The Ohio Children's Trust Fund](#) (OCTF), administered by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, provided numerous child abuse and neglect prevention programs that served families with children from birth to age 5. These services were provided through the OCTF's regional model, as well as through its Statewide Grant Initiative. Grant projects typically align with state fiscal years, and SFY 2020 represented the most recent complete data set.

The Early STEP program was provided through the OCTF's Eastern and Southeast Ohio Regions. This program targets parents of children from birth through 5 years of age. The content provided to families throughout seven sessions includes (1) understanding the development of young children, (2) understanding young children's behavior, (3) building self-esteem in young children, (4) communicating with young children, (5) helping young children learn to cooperate, (6) effectively disciplining young children and (7) nurturing emotional and social development. Throughout both of these regions, 32 parents received this child abuse and neglect prevention parent education program.

The *Parents as Teachers* model was provided through the OCTF's Great Lakes, Northeast and Northwest Ohio regions, specifically in Cuyahoga, Summit and Sandusky counties. This is an early childhood parent education, family support and well-being, and school readiness home visiting model based on the premise that "all children will learn, grow, and develop to realize their full potential." This program targets families with expectant mothers or parents of children from birth through age 5. Throughout these regions, 114 parents and 187 children received this child abuse and neglect prevention home visiting model.

The Mom Power program was provided through the OCTF's Great Lakes Ohio Region, specifically in Cuyahoga county. This program offers mental health and parenting support to mothers who struggle with parenting stress and also may suffer from depression, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder. A total of 19 parents and 21 children received this child abuse and neglect prevention program.

The Joyful Together model was provided through the OCTF's Northeast Ohio Region, specifically in Medina County. This model builds childhood resiliency and reduces toxic stress in children by enhancing parent/caregiver relationships with joyful play. This model provides easy-to-do activities to coach parents and caregivers on play with their children to create stronger bonds and lower stress. A total of 27 parents and 31 children received this child abuse and neglect prevention home visiting model.

Expanding upon the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation model through the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, *trauma-informed consultations and trainings in early childhood settings* are provided throughout the OCTF's Northwest Ohio Region, specifically in Defiance, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Huron, Ottawa, Putnam, Sandusky, Seneca, Van Wert, Williams, Wood, and Wyandot counties. This model provides consultation services to early childhood professionals via trauma-informed consultants through a collaborative approach that allows the child care providers to better understand and problem-solve challenging child behaviors, both in and outside of the classroom. Through these collaborations, consultants assist the child care providers in providing family-focused technical assistance to parents through modeling and activities with children. A total of 391 parents and 491 children received this consultation service.

The Active Parenting First Five Years program was provided through the OCTF's Southeast Ohio Region, specifically in Lawrence, Pike and Scioto counties. This program targets parents of children from birth through 5 years of age. The content provided to families addressed basic skills for new parents pertaining to parenting styles, ages and stages of development, nurturing and attachment, nonviolent discipline techniques, caring for the caregivers and other pertinent topics. A total of 25 parents received this child abuse and neglect prevention parent education program.

The Nurturing Parenting suite of programs was provided through the OCTF's Northwest and Western Ohio regions. Families received services in Allen, Auglaize, Erie, Fulton, Hancock, Huron, Montgomery, Putnam, Sandusky, Shelby and Wood counties. This is a family-centered program designed for the prevention of child abuse and neglect where parents and their children participate in home-based, group-based or a combination of individual and group activities. Content includes knowledge of parenting and child development, effective, nonviolent discipline practices and developing strong bonds between a parent and child. Parents with children ranging from birth through age 12 can be served with this program. As the OCTF does not collect detailed data, it is not possible to ascertain the number of parents served with only children who are birth to age 5. A total of 400 parents and 316 children received this child abuse and neglect prevention program.

The Resilient Children and Families Program (RCFP) was provided through the OCTF's Statewide Grant Initiative, specifically serving Hamilton, Clermont and Brown counties. This project is ongoing through SFY 2021. Through a primary prevention approach, RCFP strengthens the capacity of the early childhood community to respond to the needs of young children and their families. Due to frequent contact with parents and primary caregivers, organizations serving young children are uniquely positioned to promote healthy families. By building the capacity of these organizations to promote protective factors for families, this program is helping to decrease the maladaptive treatment of children by ensuring vulnerable families in the community have the resources, support and knowledge to draw from in times of need or crisis. As such, early childhood providers can better engage families in responding to and meeting the emotional, behavioral and early learning needs of their children, which ultimately helps ensure children are safe and well. Through the RCFP expansion project, 15 professionals, 251 children and 103 families have been served.

In the SFY 2020-2021 biennium, OCTF received \$1 million per year in TANF funding, which has helped to support a variety of parent education programs across the state as well as a new initiative – *the Early Childhood Safety Initiative (ECSI)*. This initiative pairs the delivery of one-time parent and caregiver

education sessions with the provision of concrete safety-related supports for eligible families. In SFY 2020, OCTF awarded funding to 18 agencies across the state to deliver these services.

The Office of Families and Children within the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services ensures children have safe places to go when their families of origin may not be able to take care of them. This office oversees [foster, adoption and kinship care](#) services for Ohio children up to age 18 (or age 21, if disabled). A voluntary program called *Bridges* is available to youth in foster care who are ages 18 to 21 to continue receiving services. In SFY 2020, 23,779 children resided either in family foster care or kinship care. Of those 23,779 children, 10,572 children were under 5 years old. It should be noted that kinship care data is limited to children who enter state custody, and the data does not include children placed in the care of relatives without state involvement. During SFY 2020, 7,233 children under 5 years of age in family foster care experienced a total of 9,218 foster care placements. During SFY 2020, 4,605 children under 5 years of age placed in kinship care experienced a total of 5,126 kinship care placements.

As children enter public or community schools in Ohio at age 5, they take part in the [Kindergarten Readiness Assessment](#) (KRA). This initiative, administered by the Ohio Department of Education, provides assessment kits, training and Help Desk support to all kindergarten teachers in the state so children entering kindergarten can be assessed for school readiness. The KRA is a comprehensive, one-time entry assessment covering skills, knowledge and behaviors across four essential domains of school readiness. Statewide in fall 2019, 41.2% of children scored in the highest performance category, demonstrating readiness, meaning they entered kindergarten with sufficient skills, knowledge and abilities to engage with kindergarten-level instruction. Another 36.2% of kindergarten students scored approaching readiness, meaning they needed supports to be able to engage with kindergarten-level instruction. The remaining 22.5% scored emerging readiness, meaning they needed significant support to engage in kindergarten-level instruction.

When disaggregated by race, family socio-economic status and gender of the child, wide gaps appear between children who are demonstrating readiness and those who are not. These data are available at the state, county, school district, and school building levels annually [here](#).

HOW OTHER STATES SUPPORT EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

For information on how other states support early learning opportunities for young children, please see the following:

- [Zero to Three: State of Babies Yearbook](#) - The State of Babies 2020 Yearbook compares national and state-by-state data on the well-being of infants and toddlers.
- [National Institute for Early Education Research Preschool Yearbook](#) - The State Preschool Yearbook is an annual publication that has tracked the funding, access and policies of state-funded preschool programs since the 2001-2002 school year.
- [Center for American Progress Annual Reports by State](#) – The annual reports provide fact sheets as part of an annual series examining early learning programs across the United States.
- [US Department of Education](#) – This website provides a list of federal programs that support early learning across the nation.
- [Global Report on the State of Early Childhood Education](#) – The report contains data from across the world about how many young children are enrolled in preschool, including disparities in enrollment by race and poverty.
- [Child Care Aware](#) – This website provides a state-by-state listing of resources for child care.
- [ChildCare.gov](#) - From the US Department of Health and Human Services, this is national consumer education website supported by the Office of Child Care provides families across the country with child care information.

Appendix A: Ohio Early Childhood Initiatives in the 2020 Report

Administrating Agency	Name of Initiative	Number of Ohioans Served	Budget (Year)
Ohio Department of Health	Equity Institute: Working to Achieve Equity in Birth Outcomes Neighborhood Navigation	1,522 pregnant women	\$2,910,729.55 (FFY 2019)
	Cribs for Kids®	5,961 families	\$1,308,000 (FFY 2019)
	Mom's Quit for Two	576 pregnant women	\$1,650,887.92 (SFY 2020)
	Women's Health Initiatives	20 grantees	FFY 2019
	Infant Hearing Program	97.3% all newborns screened; 4,380 referrals; 278 babies diagnosed	\$500,000 (CY 2018)
	Comprehensive Genetic Centers	143,402 newborns screened	SFY 2019 \$2,065,000 (SFY 2019)
	Newborn Critical Congenital Heart Disease	122,644 newborns screened	\$123,000 (SFY 2019)
	Sickle Cell Services Program	134,402 newborns screened	\$1,000,000 (SFY 2019)
	Women, Infants, and Children	115,888 infants, 129,516 children, 52,481 pregnant women and 36,116 breastfeeding women	WIC Nutrition Services Admin: \$57,154,398 WIC Food: \$83,440,553 WIC Rebates (Food): \$57,063,359 FMNP Admin: \$76,146 FMNP Food: \$371,770

	Breastfeeding Programs	74.6% newborns at hospital discharge	SPAN (Worksite and Child Care): \$259,000 Block Grant: \$300,000 (CY 2018)
	Children with Medical Handicaps Program	8,005 children Birth-age 3	\$5,607,652 (SFY 2019)
	Early Childhood Home Visiting Programs	10,756 children Birth-age 3	SFY 2020 \$6,326,600 FY 2020)
	Save Our Sight	16,352 children	\$2,750,000* (SFY 2019)
	Ohio Healthy Programs	3,651 training participants; 16,035 children	\$391,500 (FFY 2020)
	Parenting at Mealtime and Playtime (PMP)	Since 2014, 201 primary care providers in 90 practices across the state have participated in a quality improvement initiative to incorporate PMP into their practices	\$260,000 (FFY 2020)
	Children's Hearing and Vision Programs	19,825 children ages 3-5	2018-2019 School Year \$250,000*
*Funding represents total provided for all age groups and does not reflect funding only for children 0-5 years old.			
Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities	Early Intervention	29,699 referrals; 23,349 served	\$22,100,000 (FY 2021)
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services	Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation	18,436 children Birth-age 5	\$2,500,000 (FY 2020)

Ohio Department of Education	Early Childhood Education Grants	369 grantees serving 18,164 children aged 3-5	\$68,116,789 (FY 2020)	
	Preschool Special Education	28,386 children ages 3-5	\$12,555,000 (FY 2020)	
	Preschool and School Age Child Care Licensing	1,896 programs serving 95,000 children	\$2,760,000 (FY 2020)	
	Kindergarten Readiness Assessment	10,000 teachers; 119,339 children	\$2,760,000 (FY 2020)	
Ohio Department of Job and Family Services	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Program	103,967 children	More than \$200,000,000 per month	
	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	1,517,574		
	Step Up to Quality	4,400 programs	More than \$60,000,000 per month in direct service	
	Child Care Licensing	9,308 programs		
	Publicly Funded Child Care	95,000 children		
	Foster and Kinship Care	10,572 children Birth-age 5 over the year	Part of the Office of Families and Children budget	
	<i>Ohio Children's Trust Fund Grants</i>			These programs are part of the budgets for both the Ohio Children's Trust Fund and the Office of Families and Children
	Early STEP Program	32 parents		
	Parents as Teachers	114 parents and 187 children		
	Mom Power	19 parents and 21 children		
	Joyful Together	27 parents and 31 children		
	Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation in Northwest Ohio	391 parents and 491 children		
	Active Parenting First Five Years	25 parents		
	Nurturing Parenting	400 parents and 316 children		
Resilient Children and Families Program	15 professionals and 103 families and 251 children			
Ohio Department of Medicaid	Healthchek	472,820 children Birth-age 5	Part of Medicaid annual budget	
	Comprehensive Primary Care for Kids	708,339 children Birth-age 21	\$8,248,131 (FY 2020)	